

R5-16-000-9291



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
 REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR
 REGION 5
 77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
 CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

JUN 29 2016

The Honorable Anthony Copeland
 4527 Indianapolis Boulevard
 East Chicago, Indiana 46312

Dear Mayor Copeland:

Thank you for your June 16, 2016 letter regarding lead levels in soils at the West Calumet Housing Complex in East Chicago, Indiana. As I indicated in my phone call with city representatives last week, I take the city's concerns very seriously and look forward to continuing to work on these issues together at our upcoming meeting on June 30, 2016.

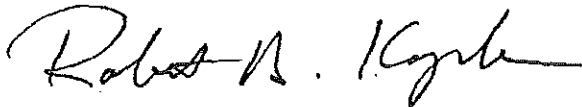
EPA is going to take immediate steps to address all areas of exposed soil in the Housing Complex to reduce possible exposure to contaminated soils until the soils can be excavated and new soil put in place. We hope you can join us in walking through the Complex this week to develop a mutual understanding of the scope and type of work that will be done.

EPA is also ready to distribute educational brochures to the residents of the Housing Complex and to conduct door-to-door outreach efforts to educate residents on ways to reduce their exposure to lead. We provided draft brochures to the city when we met on June 22 but, at the city's request, EPA is postponing distributing them pending receipt of the city's comments.

The sampling data that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency provided to City representatives in May was the result of detailed field investigations that EPA undertook as part of designing the work that will be done to clean up the yards in the Housing Complex. As you know, after public notice and comment, EPA selected the remedy for cleaning up the Housing Complex yards (as well as other yards in East Chicago) in November 2012. Then, in October 2014, EPA entered into a consent decree with responsible parties to get the work done through a "remedial design/remedial action" process. The sampling data generated by this process produced a much more detailed picture of the concentrations and distribution of lead in soils at the Housing Complex than EPA previously had.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Eileen Deamer or Ronna Beckmann, the Region 5 Congressional Liaisons, at (312) 886-3000.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert A. Kaplan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" being more prominent and the last name "Kaplan" following in a similar style.

Robert A. Kaplan
Acting Regional Administrator

cc: United States Congressman Peter Visclosky
United States Senator Joe Donnelly